

ABSTRACT

A method and system for preventing the control of an aircraft from the cockpit.

5 In an exemplary embodiment, the system could be triggered externally. For example, an
air traffic control (ATC) station could determine that the aircraft has deviated from its
planned flight path. If personnel at the ATC station decide that the deviation is not
attributable to the actions of the authorized flight crew, the personnel can transmit a
signal to the aircraft that disables all normal cockpit control of the aircraft. Once normal
10 flight controls are disabled, the aircraft may execute a preprogrammed emergency flight
plan via its autopilot system, with or without the use of a flight management system
(FMS). The emergency flight plan could cause the aircraft to fly to a sparsely populated
area and enter a holding pattern, or it could cause the aircraft to land in a sparsely
populated area or at an airport using an autoland system.

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